

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 and 25 are pending in this application.

The support for the claim amendments is as follows: Claim 15 (formal amendment); Claim 25 (p.29, lines 15-19).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 15 has been clarified to overcome the rejection.

Claims 25, 11-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Nakagawa JP '688**.

There are 2 main structural differences between the claimed invention and **Nakagawa JP '688**. First in **Nakagawa JP '688** the outer shell is made of thermoplastic resin foam (see abstract.

Paragraph [0029] of **Nakagawa JP '688** (machine translation) states the following:

the containers made of synthetic resin are completed by making the coat reinforcement layer which insert in type, and the thermoplastics which has foaming ability is made to inject and foam on the superficies of this tapetum material, and consists of a thermoplastics foam form

Because the thermoplastic foam is undesirable in the claimed invention, the applicants are now claiming process conditions that eliminate foaming and clearly distinguish over the prior art which does not show such process conditions.

The applicants are now claiming applying the outer shell layer by injection at an injection temperature of about 220 to 290°C injection pressure of about 200 to 1000 kg/cm². The result of this process condition is that surface layer is softened and formed again and simultaneously the surface layer and outer reinforcing layer are fused. The further result is that the thermoplastic resin is not

foamed like in **Nakagawa JP '688**.

Paragraph [0043] shows that the injection pressure of **Nakagawa JP '688** is much lower than that now claimed:

that it is desirable to carry out injection molding by the low pressure as much as possible in consideration of that the projected area of a cavity 7 is large and preventing that the acrylic resin sheet of the tapetum material 3 is damaged]-- usually 50-150 kg/cm². It is desirable that it is (G).

As is clear from the disclosure the process conditions of **Nakagawa JP '688** and those now claimed are different. The result of a high injection pressure as claimed by the applicants is the elimination of undesirable resin foam. In **Nakagawa JP '688** apparently the foam is a desirable characteristic (see abstract and [0029]). However the applicants have eliminated this, making their product structurally distinct.

The invention as now claimed is not anticipated by **Nakagawa JP '688**.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nakagawa JP '688** in view of **Adams '718**, and in further view of **Akamatsu '890**. The rejection is based on **Nakagawa JP '688** which has been structurally distinguished based on different process conditions. Neither **Adams '718**, or **Akamatsu '890** disclose injection pressures, moreover suggest injection pressures that can eliminate thermoplastic foam.

As a result the combination of references cannot logically suggest the invention as now claimed because none of the references disclose the claimed process conditions which result in a product with a different structure than that of the prior art.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nakagawa JP '688** in view of **Stier '330**. **Stier '330** also makes no disclosure with regards to injection temperature and pressure. Therefore in combination with **Nakagawa JP '688** it cannot logically suggest the invention as now claimed.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nakagawa JP '688** in view of **Seymour 086**. **Seymour 086** is also unrelated to process conditions and in combination with **Nakagawa JP '688** does not suggest the invention.

Applicants have now claimed a limitation that creates a structural difference over the products of the prior art - namely the high injection pressure of about 200 to 1000 kg/cm² for the application of the outer shell layer eliminates resin foam. This is the opposite of the teaching of providing the outer shell reinforcing layer of thermoplastic resin foam on the outer surface of an inner surface layer material molded from an acrylic resin sheet (see abstract of **Nakagawa JP '688**).

The applicants believe that claims 11-17 and 25 are now allowable.

Amendment
WATANABE et al.

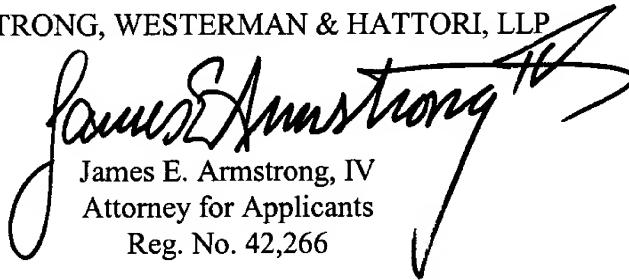
U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/700,908
Attorney Docket No. 001539

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


James E. Armstrong, IV
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,266

JAM/plb
Atty. Docket No. 001539
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
Petition for Extension of Time

H:\FLOATERS\JAMIE\00001539\Amendment 7-28-03